



TOWN OF HARPSWELL

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Harpswell Town Office

FEBRUARY 16, 2022

MINUTES

- **Meeting opening:** 2:35pm (via Zoom)
- **Attendees:** M. A. Nahf, W. Batson, D. Strachan, S. Vachon, P. Ciesielski, J. Zagariello, M. Eyerman (Planner), T. Barrett (non-member) **Absent:** N. West.
- **Minutes:** The minutes of the 2/2/22 meeting were approved as submitted.

Announcements:

PFAS and Brunswick Landing

- Mary Ann was contacted by the director of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRRA) to discuss Harpswell's concerns regarding PFAs in Harpswell Cove. Mary Ann will contact her.
- Paul Ciesielski will write a document detailing the latest proposed remediation plans for PFAS at Brunswick Landing and how it relates to Harpswell. Copy will be provided to the Conservation Committee, Select Board and Marine Resource. He will check with Brunswick Area Citizens with the Safe Environment (BACSE) members before sending.

NEWS Center 6 interview

- Mary Ann Nahf was interviewed by NEWS Center 6 concerning climate resiliency planning in the town. Interview was held at Garrison Cove landing and included a local lobsterman, Ken Oehmig from Town Lands and Jane Smith (landing steward). The TV station is working on a program series on climate resilience planning by Maine towns.

New Business:

- A presentation about the Open Space Plan was made by Mary Ann Nahf and Deirdre Strachan. Tony Barrett was in attendance since he was a participant in the plan's development. Presentation was followed by a lively discussion. Highlights of presentation/discussion:
 - Open Space Plan was developed between 2006 and 2009 as an outgrowth of the Future Land Use Action items of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan
 - HCC will give a presentation of the Open Space Plan to the Comp Plan Task Force and the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust (HHLT). Wendy suggested giving to a wider audience.
 - The Open Space Plan documents the framework for preservation Harpswell's important natural resources.
 - The Plan has been used by the HHLT when determining what land should be protected.
 - Tony Barrett recommended that the Open Space Plan be updated due to all the development that has occurred in Harpswell since its initial release.
 - Updated plan should include status of focus areas now and what new development has occurred in focus areas since plan was written.

- Mark Eyerman indicated that there are now tools are in place to generate this information. Updates do not have to be done manually.
 - Should Open Plan include scenic views in relation to open space?
 - Plan should be updated in coordination with Comprehension Plan update.
 - Does the town need to set a goal for additional open space? Should a standard be set? The HCC should investigate the recommendation by the Maine Climate Council to increase conserved lands in Maine to 30 percent by 2030
 - The provisions in Open Space have no teeth. It does not limit landowners on what they can do.
 - The updated plan should include scenic views. There is now a tool (Viewshed) that can be used to objectively evaluate views.
 - There are 4 significant wetlands not under resource protection in Harpswell.
 - Mark Eyerman discussed the relationship between the town and the HHLT. Even though the town has not preserved any lands, it has contributed to land acquisition initiatives by the HHLT. The Open Space Plan discusses about land that should be saved, but town does nothing to preserve land.
 - In conclusion, it was determined that follow-up actions should be discussed about what steps should be taken to update the Open Space Plan. Mary Ann will put on a future agenda.
- A motion was made by Jenny and seconded by Deirdre to approve the updated Brown Tail Moth (BTM) ad in the Harpswell Anchor. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 3:58pm

Next Meeting: March 2 Zoom and March 16 (Zoom TBD)

Scribe: Sue Vachon